

Ms. in Ser J. C. Simpson's handwriting.
sent to me (W.O.) by Sir Alex. Simpson

The whole evidence ~~after~~ goes to show that
the high & whole credit of the practical applica-
tion of sulphuric ether to anaesthesia in dentistry
& surgery ~~belongs~~ pertains to Dr. Morton, & was worked
out by him in the latter part of 1846. Dr. Jackson
suspected or believed that the vapour of
sulphuric ether would produce insensibility to
pain in dental ^{so far as it} surgical operations, but ^{he never} made
any efforts to test the idea practically; & Dr. Morton
~~knew the power of sulphuric ether before~~ ^{he} ~~seeing~~
indeed to have doubted the safety of Dr. Morton's applica-
tion of ^{the gas} sulphuric ether in surgical cases in which ^{Dr. Morton} ~~he~~ used it.
Dr. Morton was no doubt acquainted
with the effects of sulphuric ether ^{that experimented with it} before he had
his conversation with Dr. Jackson on the subject.

But the idea of producing a state of insensibility
 by the inhalation of vapours was ~~worked out~~ applied
 practically ^{or two} two years before, or in 1844 or 45
 by Dr Horace Wells, ^{a dentist} of Hartford who was a partner
^{in business} with Dr Morton, & who doubtless imparted the
 notion to him. Dr Wells failed because he resorted
 to nitrous acid gas, ~~which was~~ an agent which
 was ^{then} not so easy to procure in sufficient quantity & purity
 & was more difficult to use with certainty than the
 vapour of sulphuric ether. ~~But he thought, however,~~
 of sulphuric ether; but did not use it as he ^{apparently} considered
 it would be too dangerous. ~~Dr Horace Wells & Dr~~
 Dr Morton was along with Dr Wells when he made
 an unsuccessful attempt to use nitrous acid in a surgical
 case in the Massachusetts Hospital in 1844. ^{against} The
^{notion} idea of using nitrous acid to produce insensibility
 in dental ^{if not in} surgery & surgery appears

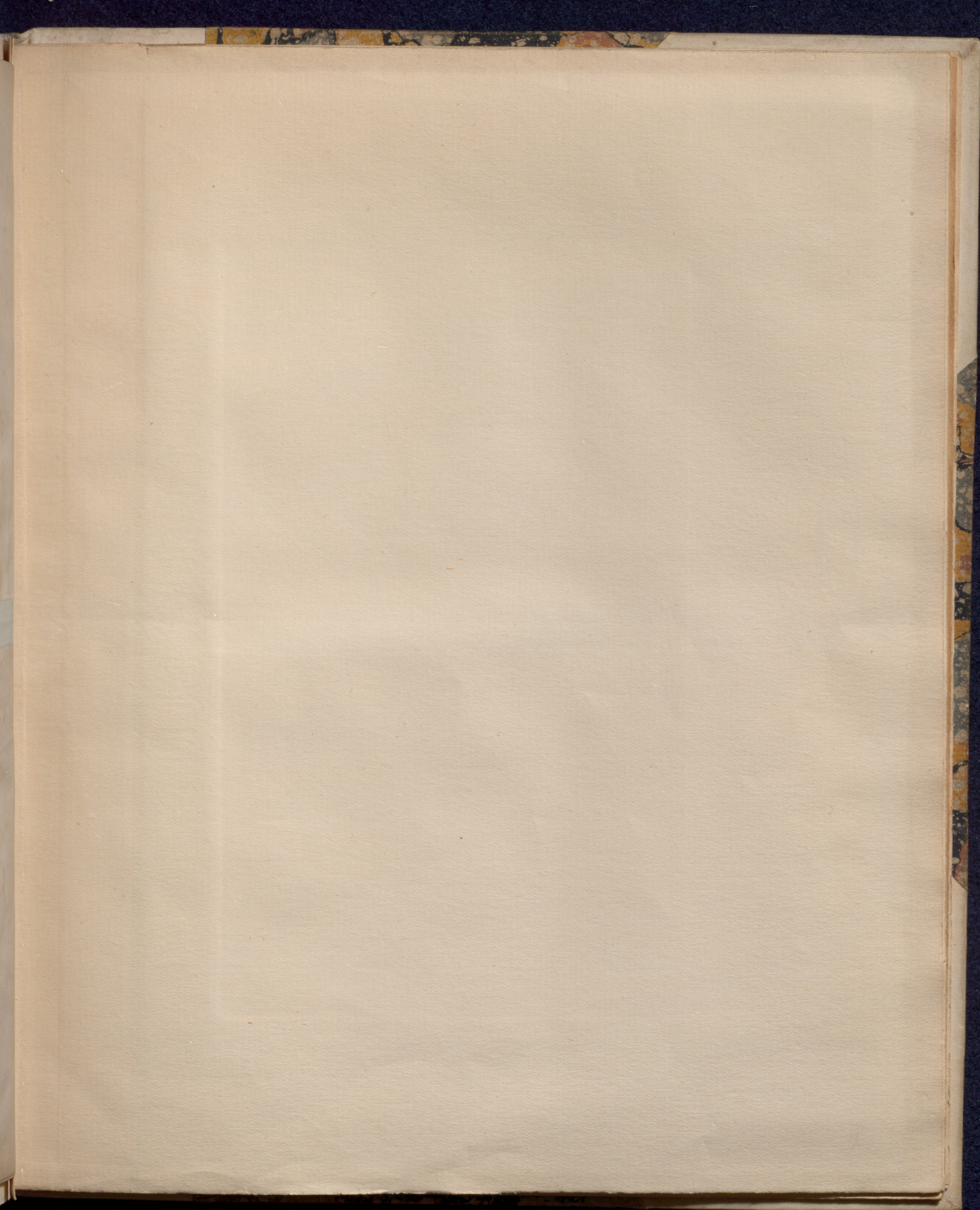
appears to have been imparted to Dr Wells by Dr Booley
another dentist, who derived it from observing a friend
of his

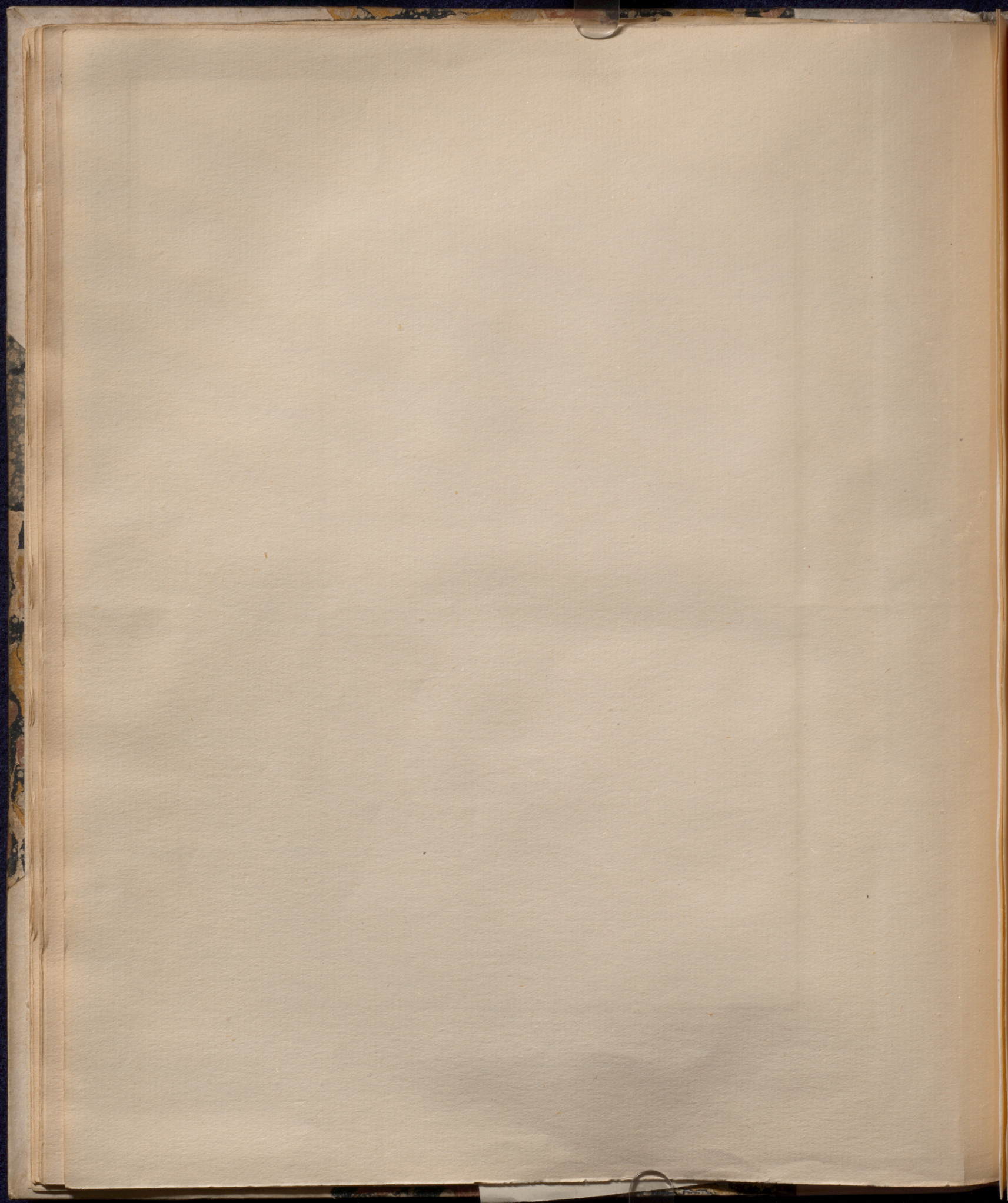
Take at a public lecture or exhibition
a dose of nitrous oxide gas when under the influence
of which he kicked and stroke his shins, but felt
no pain from the injury in consequence of the blunting
influence of the gas, - rather a ludicrous crisis, perhaps
but for modern anaesthetics. But it must not

be forgotten that the minds of many men had been
called to the question at that time in consequence
of the alleged anaesthetic power of animal magnetism
& the reports of grave operations performed without
pain upon patients when under its influence

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